

HOWARD COUNTY BRAC TASK FORCE

BRAC BIT: # 76

DATE: 29 April 2010

SUBJECT(S): Mixed Bag

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1. Upcoming Events:

- a. BRAC Business Initiative (BBI) Class/Networking Meeting (Regional Growth Management Committee)
 - i. Date: **19 May, 2010, 8 AM to 10 AM**
 - ii. Event: Focused on connecting small, minority and any other business that need help with BRAC and Cyber related business opportunities.
 - iii. Location: Other Barn, 5851 Robert Oliver Pl # 2 Columbia, MD 21045-3728
 - iv. Agenda:
 - Trusant Technologies (Columbia, MD) is a successful Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business. They will brief their business lessons-learned and how they conduct contracting business in today's environment.
 - Networking on Steroids: As we have discussed in previous BRAC Bits, this meeting will focus on networking between businesses in our region, our state and adjacent states. During the meeting, we will draw 20 Partner Company business cards out of the pot and those companies will give their "elevator speeches" to the membership. And, as usual, we will have informal networking from 0730 to 0800 and 1000 to 1100. We strongly encourage all companies to bring information brochures to display on our distribution tables.
 - We also have invited 20 people, with specific job qualifications, to display their resumes on a second table. This is part of a BBI action to match up qualified job-seekers with the needs of our Partner Companies and to take advantage of related tax breaks.
 - v. Attendees: All are welcomed! No charge for the event.

2. Discussion/Mini Editorial:

- a. The Relationship between Local Communities and Military Installations (Part 1).
 - i. For a number of years after WWII, in some parts of the United States, there were adversarial relationships between military installations and their surrounding communities. In a number of cases, they just put up with each other! The causes varied: mutual lack of understanding, too many energetic young soldiers in one small community and the economic hardships caused by the ups and downs of installation populations. Seemingly overnight, an installation could go from a population of 20,000 to a caretaker staff of 2,000, with devastating effects on the local housing and service industries.
 - ii. As the military underwent the "all volunteer" changes during the 1970s, the relationships between installations and communities began to mature. In the 1980's, several of the Armed Services introduced the community concept and a revised policy focus to installation commanders and their constituents. This action drove installations and communities to focus on commonalities rather than differences. That said, relationships remain complicated because of the ubiquitous fence, a practical barrier to efficient access and a symbolic obstacle to effective communications.
 - iii. Today, across America, communications between installations and neighboring communities are good, and with Fort Meade, they are great. In fact, the amazing growth on Fort Meade has expedited the next phase of the relationship- joint planning. In this region, both the installation and the adjacent jurisdictions are subject to the same regional forces in the areas of: transportation, housing, education and public safety. Every day over 30,000 regional residents, who are dedicated defense employees, travel from and through various jurisdictions to get onto Fort Meade. No kidding, no alternative, we are all in this together! And this is good news, because each brings different resources, experiences and perspectives to the planning table.
 - iv. Historically, the relationships between installations and communities have relied heavily on the priorities and personalities of key leadership in both organizations. Generally, this has worked well, but I think all of us understand that billion dollar relationships also need policy underpinnings. In line with that thinking, the Department of Defense has initiated a program called Joint Land Use Planning (JLUS). We will discuss JLUS, the consequences of planning action and inaction, in our next BRAC BITS.